

REMARKS

The Office Action of August 22, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

The Office Action rejects most of the claims for anticipation by patent 6,373,421 to Uchiyama et al, but only “objects” to claims 3 and 8. The present Amendment cancels claim 3 and transfers its subject matter to independent claim 1, so the claim 1 now corresponds to objected-to claim 3 in independent form. Likewise, the present Amendment cancels claim 8 and transfers its subject matter to independent claim 6. Claim 6 therefore corresponds to objects-to claim 8 in independent form. In view of these revisions, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 are in condition for immediate allowance, along with the claims that depend from claims 1 and 6.

It is noted that the recitation in claim 3 of “the number of data in the sequence of units of data” was corrected to “the number of units of data in the sequence of units of data” when claim 1 was revised.

The present Amendment also revises independent claims 11 to further distinguish the Uchiyama et al reference. In part, this has been done by revising claim 11 to include a portion (in modified form) of the limitations in objected-to claim 8. A new dependent claim 17 has been added to recite the rest of what was in objected-to claim 8.

It is respectfully submitted that the invention that is now defined by independent claim 11 is patentable over the Uchiyama et al reference. On pages 4 and 5, the Office Action take the position that the “conversion unit” recited in the previous version of claim 11 could be found in Figure 3 of Uchiyama et al. It is respectfully submitted that such an interpretation is not possible with the current formulation of “conversion unit” of claim 11. The conversion unit is now said to comprise “means for changing the amplitude of the units of data adjacent one of the boundaries in each block of the second sequence so that the changed-amplitude units of data vary as a monotonic increasing or monotonic decreasing function.” That is, claim 11 no longer provides that the amplitude varies “in accordance with” (the previous claim language) a monotonic increasing or decreasing function, which might be susceptible to the interpretation of Uchiyama et al

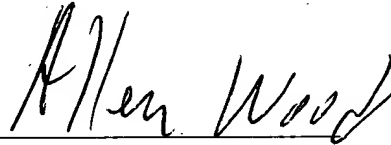
that is advanced in the Office Action. Instead, the revised claim language provides the monotonic increasing or decreasing function pertains to the changed-amplitude units of data themselves. The curve C 2 in Figure 3 of the reference is clearly not a monotonic increasing or decreasing function.

In addition, as was noted above, claim 11 now also includes a portion of what was recited in objected-to claim 6 (in modified form, in view of the different "architecture" of claim 11).

Since claims 13-17 depend from claim 11 and recited additional limitation to further define the invention, they are patentable along with claim 11 and need not be further discussed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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